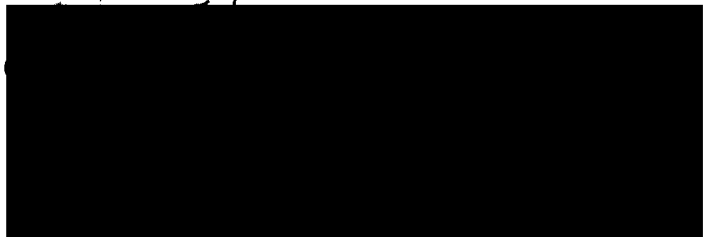


JAN 31 1964



*CIA's Reputation*

CPYRGHT

Re the CIA appraisal of the Russian economy: I don't believe it. The CIA deals in lies, spying, subversion, sabotage. It is a secret organization which I pay for violently against my will. I do not know when they lie and when they don't. Prudence dictates that I think they're always lying, unless and until they come out in the open with who, what, why, when, where and how.

So I don't believe anything they say, and I don't believe anybody who quotes them as a source of reference. It is not bright to believe a liar, even if he's only a sometime liar, as long as you know he's a liar—especially when he says: "Oh, but I wouldn't lie to you."

JOHN B. WENTWORTH.  
Washington.

CPYRGHT

I read with interest the Newman letter ridiculing the Central Intelligence Agency's release on U.S.S.R. economy. The letter was clever; the choice of words felicitous and the allusions literary. But was it fair?

Is it not possible that CIA was ordered to make public its information? The timing adds credence to my theory.

JANE W. KNIGHT.  
Washington.

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